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Former USIA Director and Assistant Secretary of State Carl T. Rowan, recently turned political columnist, has issued a warning against malign forces seeking to stir up sympathy for anti-Communist Rhodesia.

Assorted racists, fear-merchants and superpatriots, Rowan says, are trying to upset America's enlightened policy of helping the British crush Rhodesian independence. So potent is the diabolism of these plotters that they just "might make an already timid State Department even

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more tremulous in dealing with the vital problems of Rhodesia and the rest of Africa."

The particular target of this onslaught is a group called the American-African Affairs Association (550 Fifth Ave., New York 10036), headed by Negro leader Max Yergan and NATIONAL REVIEW Publisher William A. Rusher. The stated purpose of the organization is to convey to the American people essential facts about developments in Africa, untainted by the political and social dogma which saw fit to exalt recently-deposed dictator and Marxist Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana as an example of progressive leadership.

To Rowan, the American-African Affairs Association is "largely a reactionary reincarnation of the Katanga lobby—a sort of reactionary Who's Who in America." The Katanga lobby, in case you have forgotten, was an agency whose chief purpose was, in Rowan's description, "to force the U.S. Government to acquiesce in an effort by Moise Tshombe to steal mineral-rich Katanga away from the rest of the Congo." (Tshombe was the popularly elected anti-Communist president of the province he was "stealing" from the Congo's pro-Communist ruler, Patrice Lumumba.)

Among the reactionary trustees and associates of the American-African Affairs group are novelist John Dos Passos, Professor Thomas Molnar, Professor Ernest van den Haag, former Congressman Walter Judd, journalists Henry Hazlitt, John Chamberlain, and Ralph de Toledano, Negro editor George Schuyler, and Professor Gerhart Niemeyer—as scurvy a lot of sidewinders as Carl Rowan ever laid eyes on.

Among the activities of these disreputable folk have been an in-depth study of Red Chinese influence in Africa, a survey of Nigerian politics by African authority Elspeth Huxley, and a forthcoming paper by Professor K. A. Busia, former political leader in Ghana. They also had the cheek to send a three-man fact-finding mission to Rhodesia to see what was happening there—instead of taking, as any respectable person would, Carl Rowan's word for it.

In December 1961, while serving in the Kennedy State Department, Rowan delivered a speech attacking what he

described as "the Katanga lobby." He charged evil machinations by representatives of Katanga—then under U.S.-subsidized attack through the aggression of the United Nations—and implied that American support for Tshombe was traceable to payoffs by the Katanga government. The Katanga information chief in New York, Rowan said, "by spreading around at least \$140,000 over the last year . . . has got some extremely vocal help in dispensing a string of myths and misinformation about Katanga and the Congo. . . ."

Rowan went on to describe opponents of the UN aggression as racists, reactionaries, and kooks—exactly as he is attempting to do now concerning those who oppose the British-U.S. effort to topple the regime in Rhodesia. But when called upon to account for these reckless statements before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, he was unable to back them up.

Questioned closely by Senator Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.), and Committee Counsel Jay Sourwine, Rowan hemmed and hawed about his Katanga lobby assertions, and confessed that when he charged the Katanga government with "spreading about at least \$140,000 over the last year" he had not bothered to check out what he was saying with figures available at the Justice Department. The Subcommittee found the latter charge false on the facts and determined that Rowan's below-the-belt insinuation of purchased sympathy for Katanga was also false.

The truth was that the Katanga Information Office had spent \$40,000 in the last quarter of 1960, including the cost of setting up its office, and \$100,000 in 1961, not all of which had been expended when Rowan made his charges. This was a good deal less than is spent by most foreign information offices, and less, proportionately, than had been spent by the agents of the central Congolese government trying to subjugate Katanga. Despite that fact and despite the additional item that the central Congolese government's office in the U.S. had failed to register with the U.S. Government as it was required to do by law (it did register when a public outcry was raised), Rowan had no criticism to offer to that quarter.

On the Rowan allegation that dissent from the aggression against Katanga came from "extremists," the Subcommittee concluded: "Mr. Rowan offered no evidence to back his charge that support for President Tshombe came primarily from an amalgam of political extremists . . . Mr. Rowan was not prepared to place anyone in any of his several extremist pigeon-holes. . . ."

Thus the performance of Carl Rowan when, required to back up charges made by him in an official capacity, he spoke under oath before a congressional committee. The record is not such as to suggest Rowan should be given much credence when, in the role of journalist, he repeats the show all over again after a four-year lay-off. That it has been attacked in such terms by such a spokesman is, in fact, just about the best recommendation we can think of for the American-African Affairs Association.

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